Waiving of Police verification for renewal of Passports

†736. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken a decision to discontinue the necessity of police verification for the renewal of passport if there is no change in residential address;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said decision would come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The Government of India, based on the recommendations of **a** Committee set up to review Passport Issuing System in 2001, issued instructions exempting the following categories of applicants from police verification;

(i) All re-issue/renewal cases within the same jurisdiction, except applicants from J&K.

(ii) Minors, if either of parents is holding a valid Indian Passport, except in case of applicants from J&K where age limit for exemption from police verification is upto 10 years.

(iii) Senior citizens, if any one of their adult children is holding **a** valid passport.

(iv) Government servants who submit proper No Objection Certificate from their respective authorities.

India's Stand on Iraq

737. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UN Secretary General has declared American attack on Iraq as illegal;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) how Government propose now to specify its stand on Iraq?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.